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AT SEATTLE
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
BY DEPUTY

CV 01-01621 #00000003

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

JUNE BETTS,)
)
Plaintiff(s),)
)
v.)
)
EQUIFAX CREDIT,)
)
Defendant(s),)
)

CASE NO. C01-1621C

ORDER REGARDING DISCOVERY
AND DEPOSITION

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. DISCOVERY. All discovery matters are to be resolved by agreement if possible. If a ruling is needed as to any discovery question, and counsel wish to avoid the time and expenses of a written motion, they may obtain an expedited ruling through a telephone conference call to the court at (206) 553-4424.

ORDER RE DISCOVERY
AND DEPOSITIONS -1-

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2 2. DEPOSITIONS. Depositions will be conducted in
3 compliance with the following rules:

4 (a) Examination. If there are multiple parties,
5 each side should ordinarily designate one attorney to conduct the
6 main examination of the deponent, and any questioning by other
7 counsel on that side should be limited to matters not previously
8 covered.

9 (b) Objections. The only objections that should
10 be raised at the deposition are those involving a privilege
11 against disclosure, or some matter that may be remedied if
12 presented at the time (such as the form of the question or the
13 responsiveness of the answer), or that the question seeks
14 information beyond the scope of discovery. Objections on other
15 grounds are unnecessary and should generally be avoided. All
16 objections should be concise and must not suggest answers to, or
17 otherwise coach, the deponent. Argumentative interruptions will
18 not be permitted.

19 (c) Directions Not to Answer. Directions to the
20 deponent not to answer are improper, except on the ground of
21 privilege or to enable a party or deponent to present a motion to
22 the court or special master for termination of the deposition on
23 the ground that it is being conducted in bad faith or in such a
24 manner as unreasonably to annoy, embarrass or oppress the party
25 or the deponent, or for appropriate limitations upon the scope of
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1 the deposition (e.g., on the ground that the line of inquiry is
2 not relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery
3 of admissible evidence). When a privilege is claimed, the
4 witness should nevertheless answer questions relevant to the
5 existence, extent or waiver of the privilege, such as the date of
6 the communication, who made the statement in question, to whom
7 and in whose presence the statement was made, other persons to
8 whom the statement was made, other persons to whom the contents
9 of the statement have been disclosed, and the general subject
10 matter of the statement.

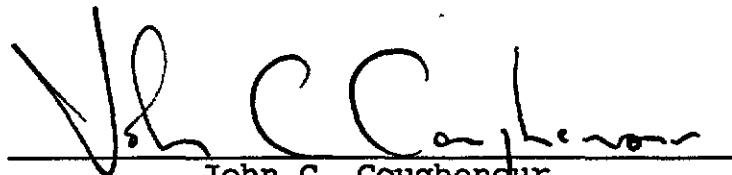
11 (d) Responsiveness. Witnesses will be expected to
12 answer all questions directly and without evasion, to the extent
13 of their testimonial knowledge, unless directed by counsel not to
14 answer.

15 (e) Private Consultation. Private conferences
16 between deponents and their attorneys during the actual taking
17 of the deposition are improper, except for the purpose of
18 determining whether a privilege should be asserted. Unless
19 prohibited by the court for good cause shown, such conferences
20 may, however, be held during normal recesses and adjournments.

21 (f) Conduct of Examining Counsel. Examining
22 counsel will refrain from asking questions he or she knows to
23 be beyond the legitimate scope of discovery, and from undue
24 repetition.
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1 (g) Courtroom Standard. All counsel and parties
2 should conduct themselves in depositions with the same courtesy
3 and respect for the rules that are required in the courtroom
4 during trial.

5 3. RESPONSIBILITY OF PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL. This order
6 is issued at the outset of the case, and a copy is delivered by
7 the clerk to counsel for plaintiffs. Plaintiff's counsel (or
8 plaintiff, if pro se) is directed to deliver a copy of this order
9 to each other party within ten (10) days after receiving notice
10 of that party's appearance.

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14 John C. Coughenour
United States District Judge
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